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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we begin this day with adoration expressed in great affirmations:

You are the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer of all.

You are Sovereign of this Nation.

By Your providence You have blessed us.

You have called us to serve You here in government.

We are here by Your appointment.

You are the source of the wisdom we need.

You will guide our decisions.

So this is a day for joy and optimism and courage. Set us free of all negative thinking about ourselves and others. Nothing is impossible for You.

You are working in our minds to give inspiration and in our bodies to give strength. Your spirit is working in the people with whom we will talk, in the situations we will confront, and in the problems we will face.

And now, Gracious Lord, our minds and hearts go to the families of those Americans killed in the bombing in Saudi Arabia. We ask You to give them Your comfort and courage. And now we press on through this day. Fill us with Your Spirit so that if we are jostled, only Your love, patience, and encouragement and hope will spill over to others. Through our Savior and Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Good morning, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately beginning a 15-minute rollcall vote on the cloture motion on the Department of Defense authorization bill. If cloture is not invoked, I hope the Senators who have amendments to the bill will offer those amendments so that we can continue to make progress on the bill today. A second cloture vote, if necessary, will occur during tomorrow's session of the Senate. As a reminder, Senators have until 10 a.m. this morning in order to file second-degree amendments to the DOD bill. Rollcall votes will occur throughout the day on or in relation to the defense bill, and there is a likelihood we will go into the evening also.

I realize that there have been some distractions along the way on this bill. But we need to get it accomplished. I believe that the chairman and the ranking member are working seriously to try to make that happen. So we want to really make some progress today. I encourage Senators on both sides of the aisle, again, if they have amendments, come forward and offer them. I am not just directing that to the Democratic side of the aisle, but to our side of the aisle. For Senators to come to the floor and say, "I'm not ready to offer my amendment," is the height of irresponsibility. They know this bill has been pending for over a week. It is time to get serious and offer the serious amendments. Let us get them done because we have an obligation to finish this legislation this week. I yield the floor, Mr. President.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Inhofe). The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1745, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1745) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Kyl/Reid amendment No. 4049, to authorize underground nuclear testing under limited conditions.

Kemphorne amendment No. 4089, to waive any time limitation that is applicable to awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross to certain persons.

Warner/Hutchison amendment No. 4090 (to Amendment No. 4089), to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to the stalking of members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their immediate families.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 433, S. 1745, the Department of Defense authorization bill.

Trent Lott, Don Nickles, Dirk Kempthorne, Rod Grams, Jim Jeffords, Craig Thomas, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Judd Gregg, Bill Frist, Fred Thompson, Mike DeWine, Rick Santorum, John Ashcroft, Sheila Frahm, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Hank Brown.

CALL OF THE ROLL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The mandatory quorum call has been waived.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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